

Lisa Cataldi

From: Eli Nixon <450millionyearsago@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 6:40 PM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: support for H5836

Dear members of the House Education Committee,

I know I am late to submit but I needed to send it anyway.

I'm a resident of Pawtucket and I co-parent a Providence Public High School Student. I'm writing to express my support and enthusiasm for H5836.

All students need Ethnic Studies! As a child growing up in southern RI I learned mostly white-washed history and it's taken me decades to catch up. It was a giant (racist) gap in my education. It's wild we even have to fight for this.

It's strange to call it Ethnic studies because everyone has an ethnicity (and how great if we all learned even that!) but I support this effort to make sure all communities of kids learn about their own (and each other's) history and culture.

I have heard some say they oppose this bill for fear it encourages antisemitism, which is absurd! Anybody who believes in the rights and self-determination of all people would align with this effort of H5836. I want my Jewish kid to learn about Indigenous, Black, Latinx studies and all the groups of people who have shaped our world, in RI and beyond. Help prepare our youth for the actual world they live in- full of all kinds of brilliant cultures and contributions, a world where we all respect that none of us got here alone or with only European/western influence.

Thanks for your work.

Eli Nixon
Pawtucket RI
02860